

Preliminary Amendment
Dated 12/20/2004
PCT/JP03/07359

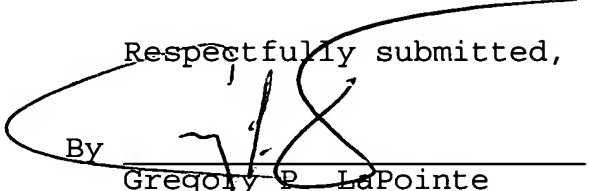
Remarks/Arguments:

The claims have been amended to remove improper multiple dependencies to conform with U.S. practice. An early action on the merits is respectfully requested.

If any fees are required in connection with this case, it is respectfully requested that they be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

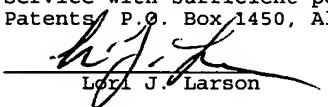
Respectfully submitted,

By


Gregory P. LaPointe
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 28,395

Date: December 20, 2004

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as Express Mail in an envelope addressed to: "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313" on December 20, 2004.


Lora J. Larson